

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
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FOR US TEXTILE DEL

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EPAP, HK

SUBJECT: TEXTILES: HONG KONG CONSULTATIONS

REF: HONG KONG 9226; GAREL/GOTTFRIED TELCON

U.S. TEXTILE DEL APPEARS TO HAVE HIT SOME MURKY AREAS BUT
WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE ISSUES YOU
RAISED.

A. IMPORTERS DECLARATION, CUSTOMS FORM 750, (STAT RECORD)
IS USED FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES. IMPORTER SUBMITS
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DECLARATION ACCOMPANIED BY SPECIAL CUSTOMS INVOICE,
EXPORT LICENSE, SHIPPING DOCUMENTS, ETC. THE IMPORTERS
DECLARATION MUST ALWAYS AGREE WITH THE SPECIAL CUSTOMS
INVOICES AS TO CATEGORY AND NUMBER EVEN FOR GOODS FROM
COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE HAVE NO AGREEMENT.

B. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE THEN EXISTING VISA AGREEMENT,

CUSTOMS WAS DIRECTED BY CITA IN 1977 TO REQUIRE A VISA,
THAT IS, THE EXPORT LICENSE FOR APPAREL PRODUCTS IMPORTED

FROM HONG KONG. LATE IN THE 1977 AGREEMENT YEAR, AFTER THE
VISA AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, CUSTOMS STARTED ROUTINELY
CHECKING TO DETERMINE IF THE EXPORT LICENSE WAS STAMPED
WITH A VALID VISA PRIOR TO ACCEPTING ENTRY OF GOODS
DESCRIBED ON IMPORTERS DECLARATION. PURSUANT TO NEW VISA
ARRANGEMENTS, 1978 REQUIREMENTS ARE MORE RIGID, THE
QUANTITY AND CATEGORY ON THE VISA STAMPED ON THE EXPORT
LICENSE MUST AGREE WITH THE IMPORTER'S DECLARATION.

C. THE CHARGEABILITY OF KNIT TANK TOPS DURING THE LAST
AGREEMENT PERIOD WAS A SUBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION WITHOUT
A DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION. COMMERCE STATES THAT WE HAVE
TAKEN THE POSITION THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH HONG KONG IN
APRIL 1976 SOLVED THE PROBLEM FOR BOTH COTTON AND MAN-MADE
FIBER TANK TOPS. WE COMBINED CATEGORIES 41/42/43/62 PT TO
PUT TOGETHER ALL KNIT SHIRTS AND BLOUSES AND INCLUDED A
25 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE COMBINED RESTRAINT LEVEL. WE
ALSO COMBINED 218, 219 AND 224(5). HONG KONG, HOWEVER,
HAS STATED THAT IT BELIEVES THE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED ONLY
FOR MAN-MADE FIBER AND THAT THE CONSULTATIONS DID NOT TAKE
CARE OF COTTON TANK TOPS.

D. CLASSIFICATION OF RAIN COATS HAS ALSO BEEN AN ISSUE
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LONG DISCUSSED. WHATEVER THE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE
CLASSIFICATION PROBLEMS BETWEEN COATS AND RAINCOATS,
HOWEVER, COMMERCE REPORTS THAT BOTH CATEGORIES WERE OVER-
SHIPPED DURING 1975-1976 AND 1976-1977 PERIODS. THEREFORE,
COMMERCE CONCLUDES THAT ANY CLASSIFICATION DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN THE TWO CONTROL SYSTEMS WOULD NOT EXPLAIN OVER-
SHIPMENTS.

E. U.S. CUSTOMS REQUIRED IN JANUARY 1978 THAT COTTON
OVERALLS MUST HAVE BIB 6 INCHES OR MORE. U.S. CUSTOMS
SOURCES STATE THAT THERE WERE VIRTUALLY NO IMPORTS OF
COVERALLS WITH BIBS LESS THAN 6 INCHES BEFORE JANUARY 1978
AND FEW SINCE THEN. BIB QUESTION HAS ONLY BEEN A PROBLEM
FOR MAN-MADE FIBER TROUSER CLASSIFICATION.

F. CATEGORY 448 INCLUDES BOTH KNIT AND WOVEN.

G. RAINCOATS ARE THREE-FOURTHS LENGTH AND LONGER AND ARE
WATERPROOFED BY WEAVE OR BY WATERPROOFING AGENT.

H. THE TERM OVERALL IS USED TO DESCRIBE A GARMENT HAVING
A TROUSER LIKE BOTTOM WITH A FIRMLY AFFIXED BIB OF AT

LEAST SIX INCHES. SUCH GARMENTS OF COTTON ARE CONSIDERED
PLAYSUITS FOR NON-ADULT SIZES OR OTHER APPAREL FOR ADULT
SIZES AS ARE COVERALLS AND JUMPSUITS. CHRISTOPHER

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